

1881

1946

The Sixty-Fifth
ANNIVERSARY

Pleasant Green
Baptist Church



October 10-13, 1946
Fourteenth and Michigan
Kansas City, Missouri

Foreword

The lack of information about the real accomplishments of the race is one of the most fruitful sources of our discouragement. Fact admits of varying interpretation, but not of denial. Therefore, it is essential that the Negro learn the value of setting down in undying letters the progress of his journey up from slavery. In this march he has been supported by religion, a belief in the ultimate good, and the working out of every problem. He has kept hope when all was dark. He has seen the Fatherhood of God with vision as clear as Constantine saw the fiery cross of victory in the sky.

Pleasant Green Baptist Church, though only one unit in the great sum total of religious effort, is valuable. If no leaf falls in the forest unnoticed, if the flower in the desert serves a divine purpose, how much more does the record of our church's achievements deserve to be remembered. In this spirit of future serving, and out of appreciation of the work of men and women living and dead who have contributed to it, this book is issued. It comes on the anniversary of our church, this is the sixty-fifth year of its organization and we hope it will be acceptable to the members, the friends and the general public.

Mrs. Viola Chapman Parrant

Our Honored Pastors

REV. JOHN MORGAN
1881-1898

REV. WILLIAM ALFORD
1898-1901

REV. E. M. WILSON
1901-1904

REV. BURDETTE
1904-1906

REV. JAMES M. BOOKER
1906-1929

REV. WILLIAM A. SCOTT
1937-1941

REV. J. W. L. UNDERWOOD
1929-1936
1942-



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Church History

The Pleasant Green Baptist Church was organized October 10, 1881, by the Rev. John Morgan, and held its first service in the basement of what was known as the Kansas City Fruit Store at the corner of Eleventh and Main Streets. Under the pastorate of this venerable minister, who worked so indefatigably, the church prospered and the membership soon outgrew the capacity of its quarters.

On the first Sunday in the month of March, 1882, by permission, the congregation moved from the fruit store basement to the Second Street Court House and services were then held in the Criminal Court Room.

It was on this Sunday that the first baptizing was held. The first service of the day was held at 2 o'clock and lasted one hour and at 3:30 o'clock in the afternoon, pastor and people went to the river bank at the foot of Grand Avenue where twelve converts received the ordinance of baptism.

The Rev. John Morgan, coming from the state of Kentucky, possessed all the wonderful qualities that go to make up good leadership, put forth every effort to develop the wonderful possibilities of his flock.

In the spring of 1886, the congregation moved to an old frame building that stood in the alley between Forest and Tracy Avenues, fronting what has been named Belvidere Street. It was here that the church organization became a corporation and the following named male persons were recorded with the charter:

Aaron Williams, James Allen, James H. Marshall, Trustees. Squire Smith, W. H. Collins, Henry Penich, W. H. Claybrooks, George Hickman, C. H. Pendleton, Peter Brown, James Pollard, Stephen Conway, H. Neal, Straughter Alexander, Straughter Morgan, George Anthony, P. Holly, H. Holly, Beverly Robinson, Charles Lane, Henry Farmer, Scott Barber, William Kiser, Lewis Franklyn, Johnnie Hale, James R. Allen, E. L. Bigby, Abraham Brown, Robert Leonard, Edward Wheeler, Wm. Ridley, Henry Combs, Richard Oliver, Isaac Smith, J. B. Ingraham, Tobias Murphy, Thomas White, Napoleon Raily, William Nevien, John Scroggins, Stephen Hingston, Elza Frye, Simon Lee, Richard Harris, J. Bowler, David Lewis, Charley Holiday, Charley Chapman, Frank Powell, George Dennie, Dabney Lightfoot, Wm. Elmore, Milo Strong, church clerk.

The church grew numerically and spiritually. Preaching was not only the vocation of Rev. Morgan, but also his recreation, for he let nothing allure him from the cause of right and the welfare of his followers.

It was in the summer of 1898, after years of untiring service, he was called from labor to reward and his remains were laid to rest in the Union Cemetery of Kansas City, Missouri.

The death of Rev. Morgan left the church as sheep without a shepherd until the Rev. Wm. Alford of Kansas accepted the pastorate. His stay was short, having accepted a charge in a broader field. Rev. Wilson and Burdette followed the respective order, each staying but a short while.

The church wandered as the children of Israel

without a leader, until Providence sent the Rev. J. M. Booker of Memphis, Tenn., who reluctantly resigned the Salem Baptist Church of Memphis to pastor the Pleasant Green Church. The coming of Rev. Booker to Kansas City marked a new epoch in the history of the church; and the most skeptical were compelled to acknowledge the Rev. Booker a leader of no small degree of ability.

The first real effort of the church under the leadership of Rev. Booker, was the move from the site on Belvidere Street to a more attractive and accessible building on Tracy Avenue. The plans were made and the building erected at a cost of \$7,000.00. The church began to take a very active part, not only in the work of expansion in the church, but in the District, State and National Conventions. Rev. Booker was active in all denominational affairs.

In 1914, the pastor succeeded in getting a gift of \$800.00 from the Carnegie Organ Fund and the church raised \$800.00 and purchased a pipe organ that cost \$1,600.00 factory price. At this time it was the only Negro church with such an organ in the city.

Rev. Booker was a lover of young people and realized the need for clean recreation that would serve as an attraction for their church as well as lead them to do a better service for their Master. He promoted Social Clubs in the church that proved to be the stimulus needed. The church could boast of having as large, if not the largest, group of young people of any church in the city.

Through the teachings of this pastor, the membership learned the art of soul-winning and the correct use of the Bible in winning souls and living for Christ.

During the ten years of iron effort at 595 Tracy, the congregation, which had largely inhabited the territory in close proximity of the church, began to move out into the southern part of the city. This caused hardship in the attendance of services. But the pastor's foresightedness and his views of church advance polity soon brought a solution of the problem, and that solution was the present site at Fourteenth and Michigan Avenues. 'Twas with reluctance that we left the north end of town and many fought hard to stay; but, God was in the plan and in July 1917 we embarked for a new resting place.

In 1923, June 19th, while the Rev. Booker was preaching at the St. Paul Baptist Church, death walked in the church and took the wife, Sister Maggie Booker, as she listened to her husband preach. This was quite a blow to the membership of Pleasant Green as Sister Booker was loved by all and her advice was in demand by all. Following her death the pastor was urged to take a much needed rest and he went to St. Paul, Minn., for a month's vacation.

It was in the mind of the congregation to clean up the church and while he was away, plans were made to raise the needed funds of \$1,000.00 to do the work. The plan was an auto race to California. Each member was to choose a car for transportation and pay so much a mile, reporting each Sunday night, the interest was so great that the attendance was kept at the regular percentage and many visitors attended to see the board and hear the reports.

The outcome was the \$1,000.00 by the time the pastor returned and the church was cleaned.

After the death of Sister Booker, Rev. Booker often said he wanted a smaller charge that would not work him so hard now that his health was failing and reluctantly he resigned to pastor the New Era Baptist Church. Pleasant Green was again without a leader and following much prayer for guidance, on the advice of Rev. John Goins, the State Missionary, Rev. J. W. L. Underwood of Keokuk, Iowa, was invited to come and preach for the church. He made the second visit to the church and received the call with everyone in the church to a person voting for him. This showed that God had answered the prayers and sent the man to lead.

Under the guidance and leadership of Rev. Underwood the church showed definite steps on an upward trend. The organizations of the church began to grow and all were reorganized to do a better work. In the history of the organizations these facts are made known.

The Bible was used in the worship service as never before and the program of tithing was taught and many pledged to tithe. Rev. Underwood's Sunday evening sermons took the form of Bible teaching and the Word was opened to the membership.

The membership grew to the place that they needed more space for the new type of work they were doing, and the pastor succeeded in leading them to buy the duplex north of the church for an educational building. This building has proven a great asset not only to our church but has helped in the advancement of study classes in the district in that

for a long while it was the only church with separate room available for study, so was used by the district.

The church was blown up, when the building across the street was in an explosion and the congregation had to worship for two Sundays at Ficklin Undertaking establishment and then moved to the U. B. F. Hall until the church could be repaired and ready for service again.

In the summer of 1938, Mr. John D. Underwood, the father of the Rev. Underwood was called to Glory and Rev. Underwood had to go to Alabama to close the estate. This made it necessary for him to resign his pastorate with Pleasant Green as he did not know how long he would have to be in Alabama.

Pleasant Green finds herself again calling on the Master to send her a leader and Rev. W. A. Scott is called as pastor. The church went on working under this new pastor as before and the membership continued to grow both spiritually and numerically.

One of the events that stands out in the pastorate of Rev. Scott was the purchasing of the parsonage. The church had never owned a place for the pastor to live until the coming of Rev. Scott.

The Loyalty Campaign as fostered by Rev. Scott was another event of which the church was proud. Every member of the church was visited over a period of one month and asked to be present in the church on the first Sunday for World Communion and the ones that could not get transportation the Personal Service Committee furnished it for them. On the Sunday named every pew in the church was taken.

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The church Bulletin made its bow during the pastorate of Rev. Scott. During the summer of 1941, while our country was engaged in a war for freedom, our pastor Rev. Scott received a call from Uncle Sam to join his forces against the evils of the world, and he was forced to resign the pastorate of Pleasant Green Church to enter the armed forces of America as Chaplain.

The church began to pray mightily now that the last two pastors had to leave under such compelling forces and wanted God to guide them again in the selecting of a leader. A letter was sent by orders of the church to Alabama to Rev. Underwood to see if he would come again to the Pleasant Green Church as pastor.

Rev. Underwood came for a month's revival and

at the end of the time was called for the second time as pastor of Pleasant Green. Before the coming of Rev. Underwood as pastor, the Boosters had on a plan to reseal the church and every one was working hard to do this job before the new pastor came, but they did not get them in the church until the pastor was on the field. New floor coverings were put on the floors also.

Committees were named from the church to look out for a new parsonage and church building. Many sites were viewed and finally settled on one and the rally was on for the church building. The move looked successful, but something happened and the whole picture faded away. The church has not lost hope and prays for God to lead them into another field that a greater job in kingdom building will be done by Pleasant Green.



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REV. J. M. BOOKER

Rev. James Monroe Booker, the son of Granville and Juda Booker was born in Cumberland County, Virginia, in July 1863. His early childhood was spent in the place of his birth. In 1869 he with his parents moved to Yalobusha County, Mississippi, where he labored on a farm with his father and attended the county school for three years at intervals. In 1880 school was abandoned and he began his career as a laborer, was engaged in a planing mill three and a half years, and then in steamboat life.

In 1886 he became a Christian, was baptized by the Rev. Henry Johnson, and immediately started on his life's work, the ministry of the Gospel. He was licensed as a preacher in 1887 and one year after moved to Memphis, Tennessee, where he connected himself with the Salem Baptist Church, from which church he was ordained as a Baptist minister, September 3, 1889.

Immediately on ordination, Rev. Booker was called to the pastorate of the Mount Zion Baptist Church of Memphis, which charge he held until 1891, when he accepted the St. Luke Baptist Church of Memphis. In 1904, he resigned the St. Luke Baptist and became the pastor of New Salem and

Bloomfield Baptist. So well did he serve this double charge, the city soon began to seek his services, until in 1902 he accepted Salem Baptist Church, one of the largest congregations in Memphis, Tenn.

In 1906, July, he accepted the pastorate of the Pleasant Green Baptist Church, Kansas City, Missouri. Rev. Booker was a progressive pastor and possessed great denominational pride and was one of the leaders in Baptist interests. In 1909, under his plans, the Missouri State Sunday School Convention was organized and he served as its president for nine years. He was for five years treasurer of the New Era District Association of Missouri, and served other various positions both in the District and State work.

Because of his untiring work for the Western Baptist College, Macon, Mo., and his interest in educational work in general, the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity was conferred on Rev. Booker in 1914 during the Commencement activities at Macon, Mo.

The wife of Dr. Booker was Miss Maggie Crump of Fisk University who was a splendid adjunct to her husband in every way.

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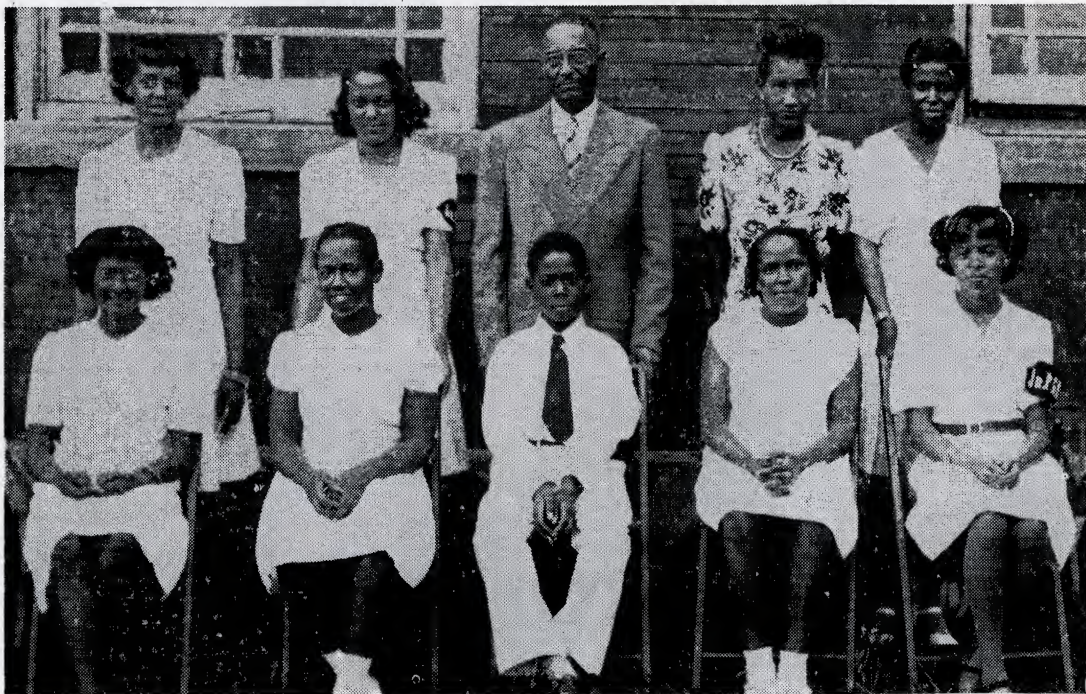


REV. W. A. SCOTT

Rev. W. A. Scott was born in Fort Scott, Kansas, June 16, 1905, began his career as a Christian at the early age of 14 in the Second Baptist Church of Weir City, Kansas, and was licensed to preach at Garnett, Kansas, in 1924. His ordination was at Ottwa, Kansas in July 1926.

He is a graduate of Ottawa University with an A. B. degree in 1929 and holds B. D. from the Central Baptist Seminary.

He has served the following churches: Garnett, Kansas, First Baptist Church of North Lawrence, Second Baptist Church, Independence, and was pastor to Pleasant Green Baptist Church three years. Rev. Scott served as chaplain in the United States Army four years. Since his discharge from the Armed Forces he has served as Superintendent of Missions for the Negro Baptists of the State of Missouri.



Junior Usher Board

In the year of 1901 there was in Pleasant Green Baptist Church, a group of women ranging from 44 years upward, who constituted the Woman's Missionary Society. Their aim was for the beautifying of the church, also the comfort of the church, such as keeping the aisles carpeted, the chairs kept in repair and that oil was had for the lamps, and coal for the winter months, when the church was not able to buy it and other things such as the church stood in need of. The officers at that time were Mrs. Mary Howard, president; Mrs. Laura Cheeks, recording secretary; Mrs. Sylvia Collins, treasurer. They were devout women with meager learning. The president could not read, the secretary was about a second grade pupil, the treasurer could neither read nor write, but in keeping account would make various sizes aughts for the different money denominations.

The Society's meetings were held on Wednesday nights after Prayer Meeting. It was soul lifting to look in upon these women as they poured forth their hearts' desire to God for their church and its needs. It was these women that held the rope until God sent others to help them and it was these faithful women that made it possible for us today to serve God in Missions in our church.

During these years, a girl, Alberta Walker, was brought to the Society by Mrs. Sylvia Collins, the treasurer of the society. Alberta saw the needs of women. Her heart was touched to help them, so when Rev. J. M. Booker accepted the pastorate of the church, Alberta asked Rev. Booker if she could be secretary of the Mission Society. This pleased Rev. Booker very much, so Rev. Booker told the women Alberta's desire. They were very glad to have her become their secretary. A few weeks following Rev. Booker's call for the election of officers of the Mission Society. It was in 1906, Mrs. Susie Lewis was elected president and Alberta was elected secretary.

Under the leadership of Sister Susie Lewis, the scope of the work was broadened to include enlistment and many more members were added. Work was done for the church. It was during the enlistment campaign that Mrs. Mamie Johnson was added. New Era District Convention was organized by our pastor Rev. J. M. Booker, who showed the society how they could work in the city and in the state, thereby giving the society a vision of the field and how its needs could be met. City and state missions were included in the society's objectives.

Mrs. Mamie Johnson was president of the society from 1910 to 1917. She was known for her ability to raise finances. During her term of office Foreign Missions and Western College were included in the society's objective. Mrs. Johnson was known all over the state for being the first president to raise \$1,000 for Western College. This amount was used in purchasing a heating plant.

During her term also was added the Sunbeam organization, the first in the state. Next was added the Personal service. Mrs. N. E. Sanderson was approved chairman of this committee. Pleasant Green's Missionary Society was the moving spirit in the New Era Women's Convention, in that it furnished two of the three presidents since its organization, Mrs. Susie Lewis and Mrs. Mamie Johnson. When Mrs. Mamie Johnson became president of New Era District Woman's Convention in 1917, the mantle fell on the little girl that wanted to be secretary of the society in 1901. Alberta was now grown to womanhood and had become Mrs. Alberta Fields and was elected president of the Missionary Society. The plan of work of the society became very definite in its nature, enlisting every eligible woman of the church, giving each one definite responsibility.

Great stress was laid upon the hearts of the

women for Christ as the Great Emancipator of women. His great ministry to women, thus causing many of our women and young women to feel constrained by the love of Christ to "Go Tell."

In the fall of 1925, Mrs. Alice Browne heard the call of our heavenly Father to go to Africa, although her heart was touched by the appeal made by the late Dr. J. E. East, secretary of Foreign Missions at the Convention in California, she returned home from the convention, told her husband, Albert Browne, of the appeal and how it had touched her heart.

The following year Mr. Browne heard the appeal from Rev. East, his heart also was touched to go to work for the Master in Africa. They both were appointed New Year's Day 1926, sailed for Africa, January 1926.

During an interval of a short span of years the work moved continuously. The coming of Rev. J. W. L. Underwood as pastor, the moving spirit of missions, whose love and foresightedness for missions welcomes a new plan of work. Young People's missionary organizations were included, namely Sunbeams, Junior and Intermediate Girl Auxiliaries, Junior and Intermediate Boys' Auxiliaries, known as the Royal Ambassadors and Young Women's Auxiliary, thus changing the name from Women's Missionary Society to Woman's Missionary Union.

The aim was for the promotion of World-Wide Missions through the church by the direction of our aims, Prayer, Enlistment, Bible and Mission Study, Personal Service, Tithes and Offering and Missionary Education of Young People of the Church.

The church took on new life, tithes and offerings were paid regularly into the church for missions and church expense. The church sent regularly each month to the various mission causes and Christian education. To develop the life of each member in the light of the Great Commission, emphasis was placed upon these aims in each organization.

Regular mission study courses had their beginning in the year of 1930, classes were held regularly in May and December. The first book studies "Stewardship in the Life of Women" was taught by Mrs. Viola B. Chapman Parrant. During the years 1930-1933, over three hundred women and young people received mission study awards. Forty-two women received in the year of 1933, their official mission study certificate which was the largest number of official awards given that year in the state to white or colored women of any church.

In the closing years of Mrs. Fields term, Mrs. Cecelia Collins, who had joined the church in 1914, was elected Sunbeam leader, later was elected secretary of the W.M.U. Mrs. Collins, an honor graduate of Lincoln High School in the class of 1917, having received every honor given by the school for that year, also attended Fisk University. Using all of her ability for God, she was elected to serve as president of the W.M.U. 1937. Under her administration great stress was laid upon study and responsibility. With all of her qualifications of a great leader, she went forward keeping a keen general oversight of all the W.M.U. work of the church. Under her terms of office, Personal Service was changed to Community Missions.

The year 1945-1946 report of the W.M.U. under the leadership of Mrs. Collins is as follows:

Enlistment Committee—Mrs. Anna Jones, Chairman.

Number of Circles in Society—11

Number of members in Society—94

Program Committee—Mrs. I. B. Rush, Chairman.

Number of Missionary Programs given—12

Number of persons taking part—94

Number special programs for seasons of Prayer—3

Director of Young People—Mrs. Carolyn Ealy

Number of W.M.U. Auxiliaries—8.

Total number of members—62

Number of special programs for seasons of Prayer in each organization—3

Mission Study classes and camps were held for each auxiliary.

Counselors' meetings are held every quarter.

Each auxiliary has its counselor as follows:

SUNBEAMS—Miss Freda Clanton

JUNIOR GIRLS—Mrs. Ethel Smallwood and Mrs. Geneva Smith

INTERMEDIATE GIRLS—Mrs. Sidenia Westbrooks and Mrs. Cummings

JR. R. A.'S—Mrs. Bessie Bush

INT. R. A.'S—Mr. William Mack

Y. W. A.—Mrs. Verndee Monroe

Mrs. Ealy has been director of Young People 1930-1946.

Stewardship Committee, Mrs. Evelyn Mills, Chairman

Number of titheers in church—35

Number pledging to Cooperative Program through the church budget—300

Amount contributed by young people.

Amount of Mission monies taken in—\$1200.00

Amount disbursed—\$1200.00

Objectives of City, District, Home and Foreign Missions:

Western Seminary, Missionary Education of the Young People of the Church.

Literature Committee—Mrs. Offie Tucker, Chairman.

Number of members taking the required magazine—94

Recording Secretary—Mrs. Frankie Duckett
Number of meetings attended and minutes prepared—12

Number of points marked on the Standard—All.

Number of reports to District and State—5

Social Committee—Mrs. Rose Armstrong, Chairman

Number of Socials given—5

Community Mission—Mrs. N. E. Sanderson, chairman

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Twenty-one years experience in the profession.
Operating Business for Self Since January 1937

Number visits to sick and shut-ins—50
 Number making efforts for Soul-winning—32
 Number of souls won—31
 Special visit to Niles Orphan Home, refreshments given.
 Number Special visits to the Old Folks Home, refreshments given.
 14 boxes sent to the needy in the Bahama Islands.
 Amount of money spent—
 Gifts of money was given to sick and shut-ins at Christmas time.

W. M. U. Organization for 1945-1946

Mrs. Celia Collins, President
 Mrs. Anna Jones, 1st Vice-President, Enlistment Chairman
 Mrs. I. B. Rush, 2nd Vice-President, Program Chairman
 Mrs. Carolyn Ealy, Third Vice-President, Director of Young People
 Mrs. Frankie Duckett, Recording Secretary
 Mrs. Offie Tucker, Corresponding Secretary, Literature Chm.
 Mrs. Evelyn Mills, Stewardship Chairman
 Mrs. Hattie Jones, Mission Study Chairman
 Mrs. N. E. Sanderson, Community Mission Chairman
 Mrs. Rose Armstrong, Social Chairman
 Mrs. M'nnie Oliver, Publicity Chairman

CIRCLE CHAIRMEN

Sylvia Collins Circle—Mrs. Lucrese Wilson, Chairman
 Susie Lewis Circle, Mrs. Leona Watson, Chairman
 Mary Howard Circle, Mrs. Frankie Duckett, Chairman

Elizabeth Chapman Circle, Mrs. Rachel Mack, Chairman
 Mamie Johnson Circle, Mrs. Hattie Brookins, Chairman
 Malinda Knox Circle—Mrs. Offie Tucker, Chairman
 Lottie Milton Circle—Mrs. Rose Armstrong, Chairman
 Fannie Willis Circle—Mrs. Mattie Whitford, Chairman
 Francis Pierce Circle, Mrs. Alice Sheppard, Chairman
 Alberta Fields Circle, Mrs. Rachel Mack, Chairman
 Service Men's Wives, Mrs. Sidonia Jones, Chairman

THE SUNDAY SCHOOL COUNCIL

Mrs. Viola Chapman Parrant, Superintendent
 Mrs. Paula D. Jackson, Secretary
 Mrs. Zula G. Butler, Superintendent of Adults
 Mr. Leroy Richardson, Superintendent and Teacher of Young People
 Mrs. Carolyn Ealy, Superintendent Intermediates
 Mrs. Cecelia Collins, Superintendent Juniors
 Mrs. Irene B. Rush, Acting Supt. of Primaries
 Mrs. Offie Tucker, Supt. of Beginners
 Mrs. Hattie Jones, Supt. of Cradle Roll

TEACHERS—Mr. Walter M. Watson, Mrs. Myrtle Page, Mrs. Alice L. Browne, Mrs. Odessa Oldham, Mrs. Verndee Allen, Mrs. Alice Cummins, Mrs. Natava Williams, Mr. William Mack, Mr. Quentin Mills, Mrs. Anna Jones, Mrs. Luriece Wilson, Mrs. B. A. Underwood, Mrs. Minnie Countee, Mrs. Hattie Carter, Mrs. Eunice Douglass, Mr. Marvin Mason, Mrs. Alberta Fields, Mrs. Dora Berry, Mrs. Freda Clanton, Mrs. Rachel Mack, Miss Louise Vaughn



W. M. U.



Rev. and Mrs. J. W. L. Underwood

Rev. John Walter Love Underwood was born near Marion, Alabama, the son of John D. and Rebecca Underwood. He was the only child to that union. He was reared in the vicinity of his birth. He was sent to Selma University to school when quite young and was converted at the age of twelve while attending Selma. He received his call to the ministry in 1901. He continued his education at Virginia University of Richmond, Virginia.

He was ordained to preach January 26, 1912 by the Hopewell Baptist Church, Marion, Alabama, the Rev. W. H. Reddick, pastor. Rev. Underwood was called to the pastorate of Vine and Broadway Baptist Church, Macon, Mo., and labored there for six and one half years. During his pastorate here he was married to Miss Girtha B. Patrick, of Leachapoke, Alabama, and to this union were born three children, Thelma B., John D., the second and Mary K.

A shadow was thrown over this happy family, when one evening while the mother was sewing, a lamp was overthrown and caused a fire. The mother was burned and never recovered.

In 1922, the Rev. Underwood married Miss Beatrice A. Monroe, who was teaching in Western Baptist College. The marriage took place in Davenport, Iowa, at the home of Miss Monroe's sister, Mrs. Mabel Lamb.

Shortly after this marriage he was called to

pastorate of Second Baptist Church, Galesburg, Ill. There he remained for two years. Leaving Galesburg to go to the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church of Keokuk, Iowa, he was with the Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church for five years and three months.

He was called to the Pleasant Green Baptist Church in Kansas City, Missouri, and served here for eight and one-half years. The death of his father in 1938 interrupted his work in Kansas City and he had to leave to go to Marion, Alabama, to live with his widowed mother who was not well and needed him to manage the estate left by the father.

While in Alabama, not forgetting his calling, he accepted the pastorate of the Morning Star Baptist Church and served them for two years when the Pleasant Green Church extended to him a call to return to them as their pastor. The call was accepted and he returned to Kansas City.

The Rev. Underwood has served in the following positions in the state of Missouri: Moderator of North Missouri Association, Vice-President of the Missouri Baptist Convention, Teacher at Western Baptist College, President of Western College, Treasurer of New Era District Association, President of New Era District Sunday School and Training Union, Congress and Trustee of Western Baptist Seminary.

OUR MISSIONARIES



Missionaries—The Browns. Mrs. Alberta Fields

In July 1924 the State Sunday School and B. Y. P. U. Conventions met with the Vine Street Baptist Church of Kansas City, Missouri and the Rev. James E. East, the Corresponding Secretary of the National Foreign Mission Board made the report of the work of Missions in Africa and followed with an urgent appeal for workers. Mr. Albert P. Browne was in the meeting and was touched by this appeal and invited Rev. East to his home where he could hear more about the work and just how he could be used on the field.

For more than a year the struggle was on in this home to give themselves for the service of Africa. After much prayer and visitation from Rev. East, the applications were sent to the Foreign Mission Board and accepted January 22, 1925. This year was spent in travels by Mrs. Browne and in January 1926 they sailed for Monrovia, Liberia, West Coast Africa.

There had been much unrest on the field and when the new missionaries arrived they found the stations closed and children sent home and through misunderstandings in America, no funds to establish the work. They returned to the states in May, 1926.

Since that time Mrs. Browne has been engaged in the cause of Missions by soliciting funds for the National Mission Board, and holds the following positions: Chairman of the Foreign Mission committee, in both the New Era District Women's Convention and the Missouri Baptist Women's State Convention and Secretary of Foreign Mission Department of the National Baptist Convention.

Mrs. Alberta Fields

During the term of Mrs. Collins, in the year 1940, Mrs. Alberta Fields heeded the call of God to go to the Bahama Islands and was sent by the Home Mission Board on February 17, 1941.

Her mission was to teach W.M.U. methods and evangelism. God won to himself through Mrs. Fields, 93 souls the seven months she was there. Fifty-five of them were in Nassau 24 at Mastic Point Andros Island and 14 at Governor Harbour Eleuthera Island. Mrs. Field was a witness to the baptisms.

Nassau's conversions were among the underprivileged, having no clothes to wear to church for the baptism, Mrs. Fields sent an appeal to the church. Our pastor Rev. W. A. Scott answered the appeal and collected funds and sent it to Mrs. Fields to purchase clothing for the candidates to wear to church for baptism.

- 12 mission societies organized
- 16 young people's auxiliaries organized
- 14 study classes were held

Mrs. Fields is still hearing from some of these organizations.



THE PLEASANT GREEN BOOSTERS CLUB

Organized Sept. 28, 1936

On August 24, 1936, the brothers met at the church to organize for their annual Men's Day program Sunday, September 27, 1936. Brother Fred C. Overton, a young man and relatively new member of the church, was elected chairman of Men's Day. Through his great leadership and the fine cooperation of the pastor and membership, Men's Day was a great success in every respect. The men, realizing the value and asset of a good men's organization decided it very unwise to disband simply because Men's Day was over, hence the Boosters were born.

On September 28, 1936, the men met at the church and organized into a permanent organization. The officers elected were: Fred C. Overton, president; S. R. Jones, Vice-president; Hillard Lloyd, secretary, C. L. Butler, assistant secretary; P. Michaels, treasurer; Edward Simpson, chaplain. The name Pleasant Green Boosters, was adopted October 13, 1936. It was suggested by one of the most loyal and lovable members of the Boosters, Deacon Joseph Parrant. Brother Fred C. Overton, the first president, has served continuously throughout the years as president of the Boosters. When one thinks of the Boosters Club, you automatically think of Brother Fred C. Overton. The Boosters Club is part of him. A great deal of the success of the Boosters is due to his fine leadership. He is a loyal, lovable, efficient and energetic leader. A great deal of the success of the Boosters, too, is due to the encouragement, wise council, unselfishness, and co-operation from some of the older members such as Brothers L. B. Brown, Charles Hefford, P. Michaels, Squire Williams, Joseph Parrant, Walter Watson, S. R. Jones, Edward Simpson, Charlie Redd, and Truman Hurdley.

The purpose of the Boosters are as follows:

- To abide by the rules and by-laws of Pleasant Green Baptist Church
- To boost and support the church proper and all of its auxiliaries.
- To extend charity to the needy
- To promote creditable social activities.

Some of the Accomplishments of the Boosters

Assisted the pastor in the purchasing of the annex.
 Inaugurated the regular Building Fund offering, thus eliminating special offerings for the purpose of buying coal, paying utility bills, and making minor repairs.
 Purchasing rugs and electric clock for the church.
 Inaugurated Pew Rally for the purpose of buying new pews and other church furniture, also tile floor covering.

Outstanding creditable social activities

Annual Fellowship Banquets: Among the many social activities sponsored by the Boosters, the Fellowship Banquets will be remembered by the members and friends of Pleasant Green for many years to come. They were held at the U.B.F. Hall. A delicious full course turkey dinner was served to approximately 250 members and friends at each banquet. Some of the most outstanding speakers and musical talent also appeared on the programs.



FRED OVERTON
President of the Boosters since their organization



Women's Missionary Union Auxiliary



Baptist Training Union



WIMODAUSIS

Wimodausis (meaning wives, mothers, daughters and sisters) was organized by the Rev. J. W. L. Underwood during his first years of pastoring Pleasant Green.

The pastor named the club to include all women of the church, knowing that all women come under one or more of the classifications. The club was to be a sisterhood to the brotherhood or Boosters of the church. This sisterhood has for its object the financing of projects pertaining to the church from the woman's point of view.

The first president was Mrs. Mattie Roberts (now deceased.) During the pastorate of Rev. Scott the club was disbanded, but was brought to life again with the return of Rev. Underwood.

The officers and members are: Mrs. Frankie Duckett, president; Mrs. Natava Williams, Vice-president; Mrs. Cleo Foreman, secretary; Mrs. Evalyn Mills, treasurer; Mrs. Verndee Allen, Chairman of Program; Mrs. Carolyn Ealy; Mrs. Roberta Bridgett; Mrs. Elizabeth Clanton; Mrs. Sidonia Westbrooks; Mrs. Alice Cummins; Mrs. Edythe Evans; Mrs. Alberta Bess; Mrs. Bessie Bush; Mrs. Ethel Smallwood; Mrs. Rachel Mack; Mrs. Susie Wilkerson; Mrs. Dora Berry; Mrs. Vivian Harmon; Mrs. Katherine Hawthorne; Mrs. Lillian Lightner; Mrs. Geneva Smith; Mrs. Emma Stewart; Mrs. Leta Netherly; Mrs. Elva Mills; and Mrs. Jewel Hawkins.

Of the early work of the Sunday School of Pleasant Green Church, not much record can be found. Prior to the year of 1906 the sessions were held in the afternoons.

The classes were largely composed of adults, and the lessons were mostly debates on some questions entirely foreign to the subject matter as prescribed in the Sunday School leaflet, the small number of children that were in attendance went home sadly neglected.

During this early period the work of the Sunday School was carried on and outstanding contributions were made by such leaders as Mr. C. H. Pendleton, Mrs. Sarah Ridley, Mr. F. L. Lewis, Mrs. Susie Lewis, Mrs. Jane McGee Simpson and Mr. James Spalding, Sr.

In 1906 when the Rev. J. M. Booker was called to pastor Pleasant Green the Sunday School hour was changed to 9:30 in the morning and we made our first attempt at grading. Our weekly officers and teachers meetings were begun in connection with our Mid-Week Prayer Service and an Annual Promotion Day was instituted.

Some of the features and activities during this period were the Annual Sunday School picnic, the Christmas Tree Festival and the Children's Day program.

In response to an urgent request of Rev. J. W. L. Underwood, who became pastor of Pleasant Green in ———, the superintendent and workers met in conference to study the needs of the Sunday School and plans were made for improvement in our teaching personnel. Shifts in organization were made, new departments and classes formed, and definite objectives and goals set. Outstanding in the Sunday School has been the Junior Department out of which grew the Junior Church with Mrs. Alice L. Browne, organizer and leader.

Junior Department of the Sunday School

When the Sunday School was separated into departments, the Juniors were placed under the efficient leadership of Mrs. Ruby Smith Ross, who remained as superintendent for five years. Then came Mrs. Minnie C. Oliver, Mrs. Mattie B. Whitford and Mrs. Cecelia E. Collins, who is the present superintendent.

Pleasant Green takes special pride in her young people, giving particular attention to talent possibilities, religious education, recreation and social activities.

Juniors are permitted to take the lead in the worship period, give suggestions concerning programs and display their talents on various occasions.

Realizing the value of the well-informed teacher, departmental training classes are held during the year.

We seek the cooperation of the home, knowing that much can be accomplished with both working together. "Home Cooperation Week" is a special feature of the yearly program. During this period personal visits are made by the superintendent and teachers in an effort to better understand the child.

Each year the juniors have a picnic or some social function of note. This past summer a "Radio Breakfast" was held in the department. The juniors assembled at 7 a. m. on the morning of July 28. By 7:30 all were quiet and attentive ready to listen to the broadcast. The speaker was Dr. H. H. Hobbs of Mobile, Alabama with a soul-saving message to juniors. Afterwards Rev. Underwood called for those who wished to surrender their lives to Christ. There were two sinners present, but they were not ready to accept. The broadcast was discussed by the teachers, and the juniors were quizzed by the superintendent. Later breakfast was cooked and served by the teachers. A social hour followed until time for Sunday School.

The present enrollment is forty-seven, and the following make up the teaching staff: Mrs. B. A. Underwood, 12 year old teacher; Mrs. Lurece Wilson, 11 year old girls' teacher; Mr. Marvin Mason, 11 year old boys' teacher; Mrs. Minnie C. Oliver, 10 year old teacher; Mrs. Hattie Carter, 9 year old teacher.

The Cradle Roll also comes in for a note of recognition in the contribution of the Sunday School in furnishing a dynamic program of activities and service in the church.

Our first cradle roll was organized by Mrs. Mamie Johnson with Mrs. Nellie E. Sandersen as superintendent. Many of the boys of World War No. 2 were enrolled in the first Cradle Roll of 1920 in Pleasant Green Church. The largest Cradle Roll Membership at any one time under the superintendency of Mrs. Dortha Scott when the number was 65 with an organized department with three visitors making regular calls in the homes and ministering definitely to the needs as revealed by these visits. The present enrollment is 20 and Mrs. Hattie Jones is the superintendent.

The Music Department

The choirs of Pleasant Green Baptist Church made up of the Melody Choir (children six, seven and eight years old), Junior Choir, Intermediate Ensemble, Young People's Choir, Male Chorus, and Adult Choir are considered as a department of music. Each choir has a weekly rehearsal, except the Melody Choir, whose training is correlated with the Sunday School department worship and the Training Union Story Hour.



Senior Choir of the Music Department

The Adult Choir furnishes most of the music for the morning worship service, although at intervals one of the other choirs is used. Often the entire department is featured in a special service such as the Christmas Pageant or the Easter Cantata.

The well-organized music in the church definitely helps to meet the spiritual needs of those who attend the services.



Young People's Choir of the Music Department

The Young People's Choir is a happy combination of fellowship and training furnishing a means of individual growth in grace and in knowledge. For the past year there has been a constant growth in attendance upon the worship services and especially is there noted an outstanding interest on the part of the young people of the church since they have been given the third Sunday night in each month as a definite responsibility.



FORTY YEAR MEMBERS

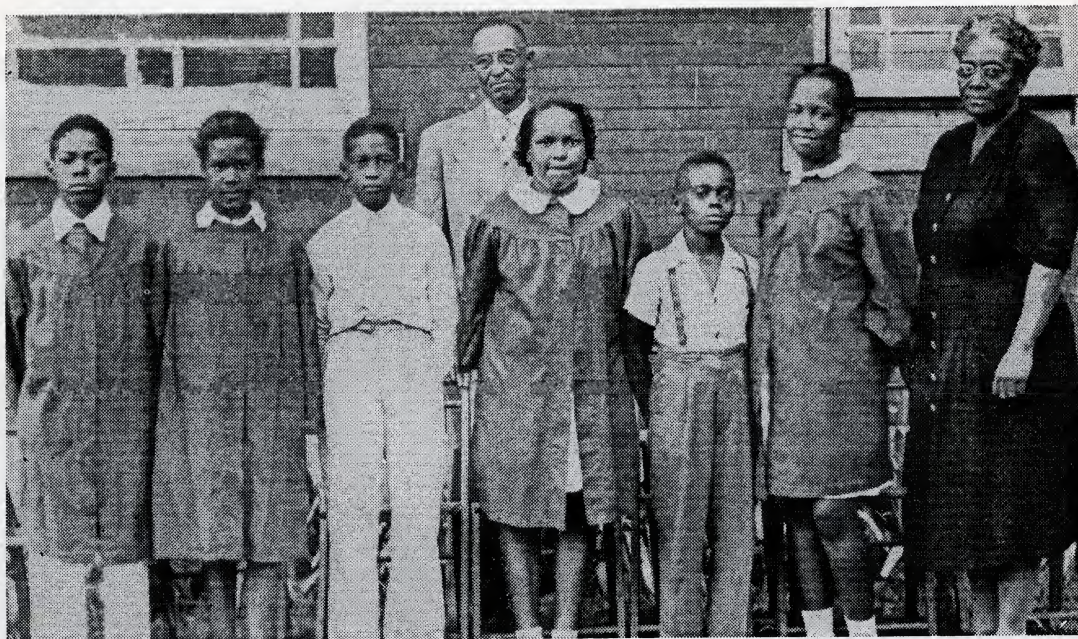
"Forty years may be an infinitesimal portion of eternity,—only a twinkle of a star—but it is quite a chunk out of the life-time of an individual."

These dignified veterans of Pleasant Green now growing old gracefully were the Gibson and Hiawatha girls of 1902 and the flaming youth of the horse and buggy days.

When in a mood for reminiscing, the conversation of this group centers around such activities as the Pleasant Green Literary Society, the Annual Thanksgiving Dinner, the Occasional Fish Fry and Ice Cream Social and the Slab-town Convention. It is noteworthy however, how this group has kept pace with the ever advancing and progressive ideas in church policy and each of them has been a potent force in the on-going of the church. They are from left to right Mrs. Viola Chapman Parrant, Mrs. Alice L. Browne, Mr. Edward Simpson, Mrs. Alberta Fields and Mrs. Mamie Johnson; Rev. Underwood, the pastor, stands in the rear. The absent member of this forty year group is Mrs. Anna Lee Campbell.

The Pleasant Green Baptist Church Bulletin began its life in 1939 as an experiment on two pages of standard letter size paper. Today it is a four page 8½x11 mimeographed beauty. Regular features of the Bulletin are the daily Bible readings with suggestions for the family altar, the community service notes, the Sunday Worship Programs and the Calendar of Weekly Activities. Instrumental in making the paper serve a definite purpose have been Mrs. Nellie Sanderson, Mrs. Alice Browne, Mrs. Cecelia Collins and Mrs. Sidonia Westbrooks. Mrs. Wilder Mayberry has been the publisher and printer for a number of years, not only giving her service without remuneration, but also has furnished the paper and material for its publication.

THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT



Junior Choir of the Music Department



Intermediate Ensemble of Music Department

QUALITY PRINTING CO.